

Gian Pietro Basello. "Of Gods and Men in the Persepolis Bronze Plaque"

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- 1 The object studied in this article is a bronze plaque (ca. 21.0 × 32.5 × 0.5 cm) found at Persepolis (abbreviated as PBP) and inscribed in Elamite on the two faces. G.P. Basello here argues both the function of the object and the concept of its difficult text.
- 2 Despite mentioning some similarities between PBP and Persepolis Fortification tablets (e.g. the proper name *u-ru-ru*, the role of ^{ANŠ}*šá-tin* 'cult officiant', the toponym *ké-sa-at*, the cultic activity called ^{ANŠ}*šu-ip*, female workers called ^{MUNUS}*am-ma-lu-ip-pè*, etc.), the author asserts that the lexicon, textual formulas, palaeography and mentioned gods show that PBP stems from the pre-Achaemenid cultural context and dates the text in the late Neo-Elamite period.
- 3 He believes that some items like *MUŠEN*^{MEŠ}... *TI*^{MEŠ}... *du-iš-ni* 'bird... arrow... may he receive' in PBP remind the Susa Acropole tablets where *GIŠBAN*^{MEŠ} 'bows' and related items are received by a god [as offerings]. So, he recognizes PBP as an official and prescriptive document in the frame of which single offerings had to be performed. Furthermore, comparing PBP with a Hittite metal tablet from Hattuša (Bo 86/299 = CTH 106.A.1) which represents a close formal parallel, he suggests that it may be related to a commitment or obligation taken by a high-rank entity towards another one in front of a third party of witnesses and it had to be hung in some related institution like a temple, a royal palace, etc.

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